

--212. A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, the gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to the gift registry computer system, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at the gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for part of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the current commitments toward the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the gift,

wherein the commitment of each giver for part of the total gift amount is directly specified by the gift giver as an amount of currency.

213. The method according to claim 212, wherein the providing of an on-line display of gift ideas comprises:

generating one or more web pages based on the gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient; and

supplying the generated web pages to the gift givers in response to giver-supplied requests.

214. The method according to claim 212, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

receiving commitments from the gift givers that include commitments which are contingent upon other gift givers making commitments such that the total of all commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

215. The method according to claim 212, wherein the receiving of gift ideas from a gift recipient comprises receiving gift ideas that specify substitution options for the gift ideas.

216. The method according to claim 212, further comprising:
providing the commitments from the gift givers to the gift recipient as cash if the total of the commitments is less than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

217. The method according to claim 212, wherein the gift recipient specifies total gift amounts for the gift ideas.

218. A storage medium having instructions for performing the method of claim 212.

219. A computer system programmed to perform the method of claim 212.

220. A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, wherein each gift idea has a specified total gift amount;

storing the gift ideas and total gift amounts in a storage medium which is part of, or accessible to, the gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and total gift amounts and in response to requests supplied to the gift registry computer system, an on-line display of the gift ideas and the total gift amounts;

receiving at the gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for part of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the current commitments toward the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift,

wherein each giver is able to commit for part of the total gift amount specified for a selected gift even if only the total gift amount for the selected gift is specified.

221. The method according to claim 220, wherein the providing of an on-line display of gift ideas comprises:

generating one or more web pages based on the gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient; and

supplying the generated web pages to the gift givers in response to giver-supplied requests.

222. The method according to claim 220, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

receiving commitments from the gift givers that include commitments which are contingent upon other gift givers making commitments such that the total of all commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

223. The method according to claim 220, wherein the receiving of gift ideas from a gift recipient comprises receiving gift ideas that specify substitution options for the gift ideas.

224. The method according to claim 220, further comprising:

providing the commitments from the gift givers to the gift recipient as cash if the total of the commitments is less than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

225. The method according to claim 220, wherein the gift recipient specifies total gift amounts for the gift ideas.

226. A storage medium having instructions for performing the method of claim 220.

227. A computer programmed to perform the method of claim 220.

228. A gift registry computer system configured to enable a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the computer system comprising:

a communication circuit for connecting to a communications network;

a processor; and

a storage medium containing instructions executable by the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient;

storing the gift ideas in a storage medium which is accessible to the processor;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied over the communications network, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving commitments from the gift givers for part of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the current commitments toward the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the gift,

wherein the commitment of each giver for part of the total gift amount is directly specified by the gift giver as an amount of currency.

229. The gift registry computer system according to claim 228, wherein the providing of an on-line display of gift ideas comprises:

generating one or more web pages based on the gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient; and

supplying the generated web pages to the gift givers in response to giver-supplied requests.

230. The gift registry computer system according to claim 228, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

receiving commitments from the gift givers that include commitments which are contingent upon other gift givers making commitments such that the total of all commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

231. The gift registry computer system according to claim 228, wherein the receiving of gift ideas from a gift recipient comprises receiving gift ideas that specify substitution options for the gift ideas.

232. The gift registry computer system according to claim 228, further comprising:

providing the commitments from the gift givers to the gift recipient as cash if the total of the commitments is less than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

233. The gift registry computer according to claim 228, wherein the gift recipient specifies total gift amounts for the gift ideas.

234. A gift registry computer system configured to enable a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the computer system comprising:

a communication circuit for connecting to a communications network;
a processor; and

a storage medium containing instructions executable by the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, wherein each gift idea has a specified total gift amount;

storing the gift ideas and total gift amounts in a storage medium which is accessible to the processor;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and total gift amounts and in response to requests supplied over the communications network, an on-line display of the gift ideas and the total gift amounts;

receiving commitments from the gift givers for part of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the current commitments toward the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift,

wherein each giver is able to commit for part of the total gift amount specified for a selected gift even if only the total gift amount for the selected gift is specified.

235. The gift registry computer system according to claim 234, wherein the providing of an on-line display of gift ideas comprises:

generating one or more web pages based on the gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient; and

supplying the generated web pages to the gift givers in response to giver-supplied requests.

236. The gift registry computer system according to claim 234, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

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receiving commitments from the gift givers that include commitments which are contingent upon other gift givers making commitments such that the total of all commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

237. The gift registry computer system according to claim 234, wherein the receiving of gift ideas from a gift recipient comprises receiving gift ideas that specify substitution options for the gift ideas.

238. The gift registry computer system according to claim 234, further comprising:

providing the commitments from the gift givers to the gift recipient as cash if the total of the commitments is less than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

239. The gift registry computer system according to claim 234, wherein the gift recipient specifies total gift amounts for the gift ideas.--